The Government both at the State and the Central levels have continuously tried to ensure maximum effectiveness of the deployment and operations of the Security Forces in anti-terrorist operations in Jammu and Kashmir, including the Doda district. As a result, there has been a perceptible qualitative change and improvement in the overall security situation and incidence of violence, although the terrorists have been able to perpetrate random attacks against soft targets and innocent civilians.

Several measures have been taken to contain the possibility of such incidents, including augmentation of security force deployment in vulnerable areas, intensive patrolling and operations for flushing our terrorists, strengthening and increased involvement of the local Police in anti-terrorist operations, including enlistment of ex-servicemen coys. For the purpose, setting up of over 200 Village Defence Committees in far flung and vulnerable areas, etc. Efforts in all these directions will continue to be intensively pursued.

As regards the declaration of Doda district as a 'disturbed area', after careful consideration the Government is of the view that such a measure is not called for at this juncture.

[English]

Production from Bombay High

*292. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will be PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons has suggested that production from Bombay High be cut by 30 per cent over three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Monitoring of MPLADS

*293. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the centre is coordinating/monitoring the implementation of Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) and the projects thereunder;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the respective State Governments or local authorities are also being involved in the implementation of the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount allocated under the scheme so far year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Department of Programme Implementation, Government of India has the nodal responsibility for this scheme at the Centre. The Department obtains the Progress Reports periodically from the District Collectors.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is to be implemented through the District Collector at the District-level directly. The District Collector has to get the works under MPLADS implemented through the Government agencies in the District including the local authorities. Besides this, under para 3.5 of the Guidelines of MPLADS the respective State Planning Departments have to issue general instructions to all the planning and implementing agencies at the district level to co-operate, assist and implement the works referred to them under this Scheme by the District Collectors.

(e) The amount allocated under the MPLAD Scheme during the last 3 years in as under :

Year	Amount Allocated (Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	3780
1994-95	77100
1995-96	76400
Total	.157280

Ocean Development

*294. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number and names of Ocean Development Schemes under operation at present; and

(b) the details of achievements made under these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) There are eight major programmes operational at present in the Department of Ocean Development and details of these programmes are :

1. **Antarctic Research :**

Annual Scientific expeditions to Antarctica to conduct research in various fields like Meteorology,

Atmospheric Sciences, Biology, Geology, Geophysics etc., are being undertaken with the participation of several Academic and Research Institutions in the country. So far 15 expeditions have been launched in addition to two special expeditions.

2. Deep Seabed Mining :

India is allotted a mining site of 150000 sq. km. in the Central Indian Ocean by the International Sea Bed Authority for exploration and exploitation of polymetallic nodules. These nodules, present at the depth of 5000 meters and beyond contain commercially valuable metals like copper, cobalt and nickel. Assessment of polymetallic nodule resources in the mine site, development of technology for mining and extraction of metals from the nodules and Environmental Impact Assessment study for mining are in progress.

3. Exploration of Marine Living and Non-living resources :

The Fisheries Oceanographic Research Vessel Sagar Sampada undertakes on assessment of marine living resources. The Oceanographic Research Vessel Sagar Kanya undertakes multi-disciplinary oceanographic research and studies for assessment marine of non-living resources.

4. Coastal zone and island programmes :

The programmes being undertaken are : Oceanography through remote sensing, monitoring of marine pollution, monitoring of sea level rise, development of shore to boat communication system, Fish-finder cum GPS System, and Prawn culture in islands. A new scheme on Ocean Data buoy to facilitate continuous collection of oceanographic data from instrumented buoys is planned from 1996-97. Coastal community programmes for pilot scale demonstration of pearl culture using onshore facilities has been initiated during 1996-97.

5. National Institute of Ocean Technology :

In order to focus attention on the development of ocean related technology in key areas of ocean sector, a National Institute of Ocean Technology has been established at Madras. The Institute undertakes programmes relating to development of technology for harnessing wave energy, seabed mining, marine instrumentation and coastal studies on mission mode.

6. Basic Research and manpower development :

Projects to conduct basic research in marine science are sponsored in Universities and R and D institutions. Research Fellowships and assitance to Universities and R and D institutions are given to facilitate manpower development in several ocean related programmes. A national project on the development of drugs from the sea with participation of national laboratories, medical institutions and universities is in progress.

7. Information and Awareness :

A National Ocean Information System is operational to collect, store and disseminate ocean related data in the country. Programmes such as organisation of exhibition and fairs, establishment of oceanarium to create awareness on oceans and ocean life are being undertaken.

8. International Co-operation and programmes :

The Department is servicing the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which was ratified by India in June, 1995 and actively participates in several international and regional programmes relating to oceans and the Antarctic Treaty System.

(b) The details of significant achievements made under these schemes are as follows :

1. Antarctic Programme

(i) 15 successful Expeditions launched to Antarctica since 1981.

(ii) Two Research Stations, named Dakshin Gangotri and Maitri, were established in Antarctica. The Indian 'Maitri' was inspected by foreign teams and certified it as environmentally sound.

(iii) Satellite communications for telephone and fax and computerised data transfer opened up with the icy continent. E-Mail facility was also established.

(iv) Study of the Ozone Hole Phenomenon was carried out by new Scientific techniques like Millimetre Wave and Laser Heterodyne Experiments.

(v) 1128 scientific and logistics personnel participated in various scientific programmes in Antarctica.

(vi) An Antarctic Study Centre is being established at Goa for conducting research in Antarctic sciences.

(vii) A Special expedition using FORV Sagar Sampada was launched in 1995 to assess the resource potential of Krill and study the technologies relating to harvesting and processing of Krill.

2. Deep Seabed Mining

(i) India has been recognised as a pioneer investor by the International Seabed Authority and it is allotted a mine site of 150,000 sq. km. in Central Indian Ocean for exploration and exploitation of nodules. 50% of the area will have to be surrendered to the Authority and remaining 50% area could be used by India for exploitation.

(ii) The 150,000 sq.km. of deep seabed area in Central Indian Ocean was surveyed and mapped and 20% of the area is relinquished as per stipulation.

(iii) Development of technology for mining of nodules planned in a phased manner. To start with, technology for shallow bed mining is being developed. A prototype of Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) has been designed, fabricated and tested in the shallow water bed facility of the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur. Modification and updating of ROV are in progress.

(iv) Technology for extracting copper, Nickel and cobalt from manganess nodules is being developed on a pilot scale at National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur and Regional Research Laboratory Bhubaneswar.

(v) Strategy for exploration and exploitation of placer mineral deposits along the coastal seas has been worked out.

(vi) Environmental Impact Study in the Central Indian Ocean is initiated.

3. Exploration of Marine Living and Non-living Resources

(i) The Fisheries Oceanographic Research Vessel Sagar Sampada has completed 144 cruises and located fishing grounds for under-exploited and unexploited fishery resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India.

(ii) The Oceanographic Research Vessel Sagar Kanya has completed 114 cruises and several multi-disciplinary oceanographic studies were conducted including studies relating to exploration of non-living resources in the EEZ of India.

4. Coastal Zone And Islands

(i) Based on Remote Sensing Data from satellites, Potential Fishing Zone information was generated and disseminated to coastal fishermen periodically.

(ii) Coral reef maps were prepared for the first time for Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the coasts of Tamilnadu and Gujarat. Maps are helpful in conservation studies.

(iii) Maps on shoreline changes have been prepared for Tamilnadu and Kerala and the programme is planned to be extended to other coastal States.

(iv) Preparation of maps in the scale of 1:25000 with half metre contours was completed for low lying areas from Nellore to Machilipatnam and task of preparation of similar maps from Machilipatnam to Bangladesh border is in progress.

(v) Programme for installation of 14 modern tide gauges along the coast and in Islands to monitor the sea level rise has been launched. Three tide gauges have already been installed at Marmagao, Port Blair and Madras.

(vi) A programme for providing walkie-talkie sets to coastal fishermen to communicate with shore stations in case of emergencies was completed on a pilot scale at two locations each in Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and at one location in Goa. The programme will be extended to other coastal States.

(vii) A technology demonstration project for prawn culture has been successfully completed in the acidic soils of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(viii) A national programme for monitoring the health of the coastal waters with the help of 11 institutions along the coast is operational and areas of low, moderate and high concentration of pollutants were identified. Advisories are sent to State Pollution Control Boards about the levels of pollutants in coastal waters for taking remedial actions in the areas where such actions are required.

(xi) A National Contingency Plan for monitoring, control and combating of oil spills has been finalised and approved.

(x) Two Coastal Research Vessels to support the pollution monitoring programme are under final stages of construction.

5. National Institute of Ocean Technology

(i) A National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) was established in Madras in 1993 for undertaking mission oriented technology development projects in the areas of wave energy, seabed mining, marine instrumentation and coastal application studies.

(ii) A pilot plant for Wave Energy was commissioned at Vizhinjam in Kerala. Based on the experiments conducted, a new power module was designed and installed. The tests on performance of the new power module are in progress.

(iii) A preliminary design of the test rig was completed for seabed mining upto a depth of 250m.

(iv) Testing of an indigenously designed and developed acoustic tide gauge is in progress.

(v) Mathematical model to predict changes of the coast line, is being developed.

6. Basic Research and Manpower Development

(i) A number of research projects are sponsored to Universities and R and D Institutions to encourage basic research and build up facilities.

(ii) A national programme for identification of bioactive substances from marine organisms with participation of 10 institutions, is in progress. So far 134 organisms were screened for bio-activity and 5 were identified for further development.

(iii) A special course on Air-Sea Interaction studies is sponsored in the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

(iv) Assistance was given to the Andhra University to start Post Graduate Degree and Diploma courses on Coastal Agriculture and Marine Biotechnology.

(v) A number of fellowships and associateships have been awarded in Universities at R and D Institutions for development of specialised manpower in the fields of Ocean science and technology.

7. Information and Awareness

(i) 14 National Marine Data Centres to collect, store and disseminate ocean related data have been established.

(ii) Periodical exhibitions are conducted for popularisation of ocean sciences.

(iii) Writing books on ocean sciences in Hindi are encouraged.

(iv) A project to establish an Oceanarium in Goa is conceived on Build, Own, Operate and Maintain (BOOM) basis.

8. International Co-operation and Programmes

(i) India has ratified United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea in 1995 and was elected as a member in the Council of Internal Seabed Authority under Investors category.

(ii) An action plan for protention and management of marine environment in the South Asian Seas region ws adopted in 1995.

(iii) A Memorandum of Understanding between Government of India and the Sea Fisheries Institute, Poland, was signed in 1995, for getting expert help during the expedition for the assessment of krill and other marine living resources in the Antarctic waters.

(iv) A Memorandum of Understanding between Government of India and the Russian Federation was signed in 1996, for co-operation in the field of Deep seabed exploration and mining.

(v) India ratified the Protocol on Environment Protection to the Antarctic Treaty in 1996, thus upholding its commitment to preserve the pristine nature of Antarctica.

Renewable Energy Policy

*295. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to formulate a comprehensive renewable energy policy;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c). The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has initiated action for formulation of a comprehensive Renewable energy policy, which aims at utilising the large potential of renewable Energy in the country. The broad features of the Renewable Energy Policy include financial and fiscal incentives for investors, generation of resources, priority purchase of power from renewable energy sources by utilities, research and development, industrial development, human resource development and institutional arrangements at the national and State levels, among others. The policy aims at ensuring greater use of renewable energy in rural and urban areas to reduce dependence on non-renewable fossil fuel resources, and to reduce environmental pollution.

Wasteland Development Project

*296. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the projects sanctioned/approved under the Wasteland Development Programme pertaining to the Rajasthan;

(b) the details of the projects not sanctioned/approved;